BIOMETRICS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mr. Cary Dell, DoD Biometrics
Phone: 304-326-3065 (o), 304-844-0140 (c)
E-Mail: cary.dell@dodbfc.army.mil

DoD Biometrics and NIST Release BioAPI Conformance Test Suites

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 9, 2006 — The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) and the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) completed the development of two software tools, known as BioAPI Conformance Test Suite (CTS) implementations. These tools will help users verify the conformance of biometrics subsystems (software associated to biometric sensors such as fingerprint readers) to American National Standard International Committee for Information Technology Standard (ANSI INCITS) 358-2002, the BioAPI Specification 1.1. The BioAPI standard defines generic interfaces to a broad range of biometric technologies.

These software tools are based on a conformance testing methodology under development in INCITS Technical Committee M1 – Biometrics. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Joint Technical Committee 1 Subcommittee 37 – Biometrics is currently developing international versions of the BioAPI specification and the associated conformance testing methodology standard.

"Biometric technologies are playing an increasingly vital role for our warfighters and for our partners across the Federal government," said Dr. Joseph Guzman, Director of the DoD Biometrics Management Office. "Standards are critical to ensuring we have interoperable systems that can scale effectively, and this joint effort between the BMO and NIST exhibits the type of interagency coordination that will help us get there."

"Government and commercial users need the timely development of biometric standards and accompanying testing tools in support of highly secure identification and verification solutions," said Fernando Podio, NIST biometric standards program manager. "Standards-based, high-quality conformance testing leads to greatly increased levels of confidence in product conformance claims for developers and users."

The DoD BMO and NIST conducted intensive testing of the CTS implementations to cross-validate the test results to ensure that these independently developed testing tools would derive the same results while testing the same products. The National Biometric Security Project co-sponsored the CTS software development in support of NIST's biometric standards program. The Biometric Foundation collaborated with NIST in performing the required tests.

More information on the DoD BMO's CTS tool can be found at the www.biometrics.dod.mil. More information on NIST's CTS tool can be found at www.nist.gov/biometrics.

###

As a non-regulatory agency of the Commerce Department's Technology Administration, NIST promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. ITL is one of the measurement and standards laboratories of NIST. ITL works with industry, research, and government organizations to make information technology more usable, more secure, more scalable, and more interoperable than it is today. ITL develops the tests and test methods that both the developers and the users of the technology need to objectively measure, compare and improve their systems. For many years, ITL has been mandated by legislation to provide computer security standards and guidelines to federal agencies for the protection of sensitive unclassified information in their IT systems and networks.

The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) leads, consolidates, and coordinates Biometric activities for the DoD to enable Identity Dominance and identity assurance in support of national security. The BMO reports to the Army Chief Information Officer (CIO/G-6) who acts on behalf of the DoD Executive Agent for Biometrics, the Secretary of the Army.

The National Biometric Security Project is a not-for-profit test, research and analysis organization focused entirely on the application of biometrics to improve the security of the U.S. civil infrastructure. NBSP services are available to government agencies at the federal, state, and local level and private sector agencies responsible for maintaining key components of the national infrastructure.

The Biometric Foundation, founded in August of 2000, is dedicated to a systematic program of research, education and standards development to reduce impediments to wide adoption and use of all biometric technologies. Based in Washington, DC, TBF serves as a standards incubator and facilitates the interaction between the government, academia and industry.